of the succeeding year. Hence 'D' form notices should be sent only in the month of Thulam and .three months' time should be allowed in all cases.

The member lastly urged that, in view of the great trade depression in the country and the consequent loss to trading community, the merchants should be exempted from being assessed for income tax during 1106 and 1107.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Many of the points that you have mentioned, Mr. Janardana Pillai, relate to matters, where according to you, the subordinate officers of the department are not applying the law or the rules relating to income tax or the circulars of the Income Tax Commissioner. I can assure you that, if specific matters are brought to the notice of the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner, he will pay special attention to them.

With regard to the general modifications of practice or rules that you mentioned as being necessary, they also will be considered and enquired into by the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner. The rules and the practice will be modified in order to give all possible facilities to the traders. You need not be under any misapprehension that Government do not recognise the importance of the trading community of the State. As a matter of fact, grievances of the trading community brought to the notice of the Government are being promptly remedied. This is a statement which you will not dispute. Any complaints taken to the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner will receive his best consideration.

Your other suggestions will receive the best consideration of Government.

83. Trade Depression.

MR. M. LAKSHMANAN PILLAI JANARDANA PILLAI (*Trading Classes, Alleppey*) first thanked the Government for having agreed to appoint a committee to enquire into the subject. But the matter should be expedited. If the appointment of the committee was delayed, the report of the committee would not confer any benefit on the people. The terms of reference to the committee should be very wide and comprehensive and should cover a large field of enquiry. If necessary, a small sub-committee should be empowered to tour through Bombay, Karachi, Calcutta, Ceylon and Rangoon for conducting enquiries regarding the export trade of the State with those commercial centres. The member then made the following suggestions :—

1. Funds should be advanced to export merchants on the security of export stocks and taking property as collateral security, to enable them to retain larger stocks. This would induce them to raise the prices of fresh arrivals of stock. This was the only practical method of raising the low price of raw materials.

2. Aden and Arabia, which were large buyers of smoked and dried ginger, were not buying the articles now. Hence, enquiries should be made to find out new markets for these articles.

3. There was a very large demand in British Indian markets for all the local products. The middlemen's profit should be eliminated and the maximum prices should be secured to the ryots. An agency should be brought into existence for this purpose.

4. Trade Agents should be appointed immediately in London, Bombay, Karachi, New York and in Europe. Travancore was largely depending on the export trade of raw products. To get over the present difficulty, Trade Agents were essential.

DEWAN'S REPLY: As you yourself say, Mr. Janardanan Pillai, a committee will be constituted very soon and all these matters will be referred to that committee. When that committee makes its recommendations, Government will deal with them.

84. Needs of the Padmanabhapuram Municipality.

MR. N. SHAHUL HAMEED (*Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) speaking in Tamil first represented about the necessity for passing early orders on the question of the transfer of the site of the Thuckalai Telephone Exchange to the Padmanabhapuram Municipal Council for the purpose of constructing a building for the Municipal Office. Time and again has this necessity been pressed upon the attention of Government, both by means of representations in the Assembly and by resolutions passed by the Municipal Council. The attention of the Government also had been drawn to the financial condition of the Municipal Council which was not in a position to pay a rent of Rs. 15 per mensem for the present building. Government were kind enough to issue the necessary orders to the Chief Engineer Mr. Alfred Vipan. Mr. Vipan inspected the place, agreed with the views of the Municipal Council and recommended the transfer of the site of the Telephone Exchange at Thuckalai to the Municipal Council. The member regretted that, although this recommendation was made some time ago, no final orders had been passed by them yet, and requested that early orders might be passed.

Allied to this question was the construction of a building for the Municipality at the new site. As already observed, the Municipal Council found it difficult to meet even the expenditure on account of the rent for the existing building. The member requested Government to sanction a long-term loan of Rs. 3,000 to the Council.

The next subject that the member referred to was about the necessity for the supply of good drinking water to the inhabitants of Padmanabhapuram. There were one or two wells in the Southern Ward of the Municipality, but water in these wells was brackish. People drank this water and epidemics like diarrhoea and small-pox were prevalent among them. Representations had been made at previous sessions of the Assembly on the subject but no action was taken.